H. CON. RES. 35

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Congratulating the State of Qatar and its citizens for their commitment to democratic ideals and women's suffrage on the occasion of Qatar's historic elections of a central municipal council on March 8, 1999.

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION
H. CON. RES. 35

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas His Highness, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, issued a decree creating a central municipal council, the first of its kind in Qatar;

Whereas on March 8, 1999, the people of the State of Qatar held direct elections for a central municipal council;

Whereas the central municipal council has been structured to have members from 29 election districts serving 4-year terms;

Whereas Qatari women were granted the right to participate in this historic first municipal election, both as candidates and voters;

Whereas this election demonstrates the strength and diversity of the State of Qatar's commitment to democratic expression;

Whereas the United States highly values democracy and women's rights;

Whereas March 8 is recognized as International Women's Day, and is an occasion to assess the progress of the advancement of women and girls throughout the world; and

Whereas this historic event of democratic elections and women's suffrage in the State of Qatar should be honored: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3   (1) commends His Highness, Sheikh Hamad
4   bin Khalifa al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, for his
5   leadership and commitment to suffrage and the prin-
6   ciples of democracy;

7   (2) congratulates the citizens of the State of
8   Qatar as they celebrate the historic election for a
9   central municipal council; and

10   (3) reaffirms that the United States is strongly
11   committed to encouraging the suffrage of women,

1 democratic ideals, and peaceful development
2 throughout the Middle East.

Passed the House of Representatives April 13, 1999.

Attest:

Clerk.